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The Illinois Department on Aging

Working to improve the quality of life for older Illinoisans.

From the Director

Josephine K. Oblinger

The special concerns of the elderly are the concerns of the Illinois Department on Aging. The Department was created in 1973 as a cabinet-level agency of state government in response to a mandate from Illinois' older citizens. The Department is the only state agency authorized to receive and dispense Older Americans Act funds. It administers, coordinates and unifies federal, state and local funds and programs to improve the lives of elderly persons.

Now in our fourth year of operation, it continues to face the challenges of this decade of understanding the problems of older people and how best to provide supports and services to meet those needs. With increasing knowledge many of the myths and stereotypes about older people are beginning to fade away. We in the Department know through experience that the quality of older people's lives can be so affected that self-worth is reinforced, creative talents reawakened and new relationships established.

Today there are nearly 2 million residents of Illinois 60 years of age and older. Since 1900, the older population has increased eight-fold. Increasing numbers of older Illinoisians are in the mainstream of community life. Yet many active older people have unused talents, energy and wisdom that are wasted because they continue to be victims of myths and stereotypes. Their unused capacities represent a loss not only to themselves but to Illinois as a whole. This brochure describes the Illinois Department on Aging and how it works to open opportunities to meet the needs of the older population and to help society as a whole understand and use the vast resources represented by our elder citizens.

Josephine K. Oblinger

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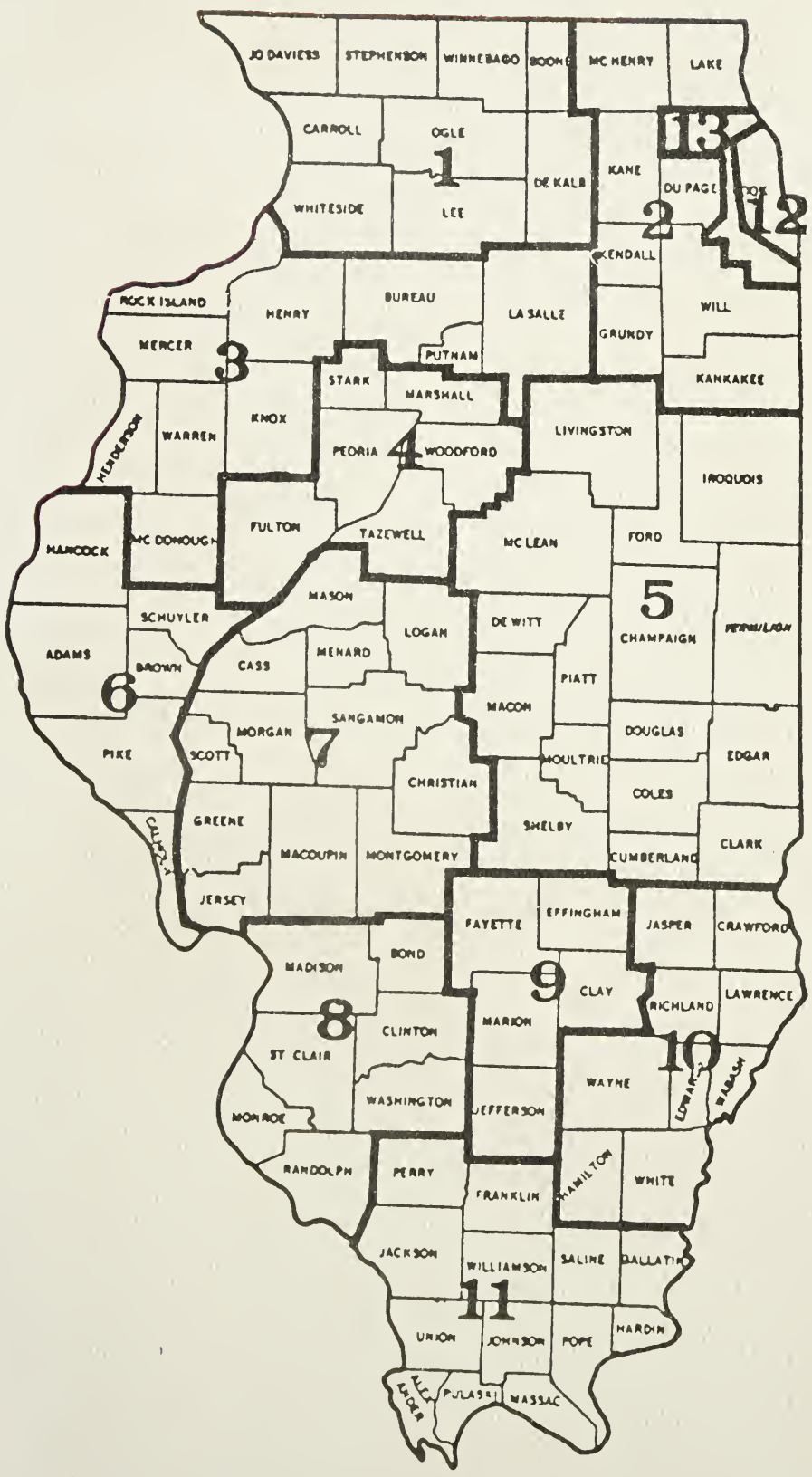
The Aging Network



Illinois has been divided into thirteen geographic areas. Each has an area agency on aging designated and funded by the Department on Aging. These agencies have the primary task of planning and coordinating services and programs for older people in their areas. The Department on Aging supportive social service programs are delivered through either an area agency on aging and its contractors or through a grant from the Department.

A basic objective of services is to bolster the capacities of the aging to function at home and in the community and to delay the processes of physical, mental and social deterioration which hasten institutional care.

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Nutrition

Nutrition is a vital element in preventive medicine. More than four hundred congregrate meal centers are now serving hot, well-balanced noon lunches five days each week to older persons throughout Illinois. More than 21,000 meals are served each day. Participants make contributions for each meal based upon their ability to pay. Persons over 60 and their spouses are eligible regardless of their economic standing. Nutrition sites are located in senior citizen centers, churches, community facilities, schools, and high-rise apartment buildings for the elderly. Through the program, elderly persons are encouraged to get out of their homes and enjoy a nutritious meal in the company of their friends and neighbors. Through on-going nutrition education utilizing community based hospitals and colleges, seniors are trained in shopping for one or two persons. With the increasing numbers of quick food products adequate nutrient intake is stressed while limiting calories. Home-delivered meals, nutrition education, and supportive social services are also a part of the program.

Services now provided to Illinois' senior citizens through the Department on Aging

Information & Referral
Outreach
Health Screening & Evaluation
Home Health
Transportation
Escort
Homemaker
Chore
Counseling
Adult Day Care
Meals
Ombudsman
Employment Services
Friendly Visiting
Home-delivered Meals
Housing Service
Legal Service
Telephone Reassurance
Recreation
Education
Residential Repair & Renovation
Nutrition Services

Area Agencies on Aging

1. Northwestern Illinois Area on Aging
   Eastmoor Building
   4223 E. State Street
   Rockford, Illinois 61108
   (815) 226-4901

2. Region 2 Area Agency on Aging
   Kankakee Community College
   P. O. Box 809
   Kankakee, Illinois 60901
   (815) 939-0727

3. Western Illinois Agency on Aging, Inc.
   Room 505
   1518 5th Ave.
   Moline, Illinois 61265
   (309) 797-4319

4. Central Illinois Agency on Aging, Inc.
   YMCA Building
   714 Hamilton Boulevard
   Peoria, Illinois 61603
   (309) 676-4312

5. East Central Illinois
   Area Agency on Aging, Inc.
   2714 McGraw Drive
   Bloomington, Illinois 61701
   (309) 662-9393

6. West Central Illinois Area Agency on Aging
   P.O. Box 428
   Quincy, Illinois 62301
   (217) 223-7904

7. Project LIFE Area Agency on Aging
   1029 South 4th Street
   Springfield, Illinois 62703
   (217) 522-8954

8. Southwestern Illinois Area Agency on Aging
   Suite 107
   Edgemont Building
   8787 State Street
   East St. Louis, Illinois 62203
   (618) 397- 4118

9. Midland Area Agency on Aging
   Room 413
   140 S. Locust
   Centralia, Illinois 62801
   (618) 532-1853

10. Southeastern Illinois Agency on Aging, Inc.
    425 Market Street
    Mt. Carmel, Illinois 62863
    (618) 262-8001

11. Egyptian Area Agency on Aging
    John A. Logan College
    Carterville, Illinois 62918
    (618) 985-4011

12. Mayor's Office for Senior Citizens
    and Handicapped
    180 North LaSalle Street, Suite 500
    Chicago, Illinois 60601
    (312) 744-5777

13. Suburban Cook County Area Agency on Aging
    Suite 1200
    223 W. Jackson
    Chicago, Illinois 60606
    (312) 341-1400

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New Needs, New Tasks

Comprehensive Alternative Care

During fiscal 1978, the Illinois Department on Aging has established three model Comprehensive Alternative Care projects across Illinois. A major goal of the program is to prevent or reduce inappropriate instititutional care for older persons. This will be done by providing community or home-based care as an alternative to the long-term care facility. The program was developed in response to identified barriers in the current service delivery system. Services through the Comprehensive Alternative Care program include adult day care, homemaker/chore/housekeeper and health screening services. Health screening is conducted by registered nurses with appropriate physician referral. The overall goal of the program is to demonstrate whether a substantial portion of the high-risk elderly population in Illinois can be maintained in their own community and home environment through a highly coordinated application of community support services. As resources become available, the Department intends to expand the program on a statewide basis. As we see it, institutionalization is the alternative to a good home-based program.

Department Publications Available upon request:

Protecting the Employment Rights of Older Workers

Characteristics of Older Persons in Illinois
A Compilation of the 1970 Census (Volumes I and II)

Older Persons in Illinois

The Number of Older Voters in Illinois for Congressional and Legislative Districts

Summary of Major Findings of Illinois' Long-Term Care Study

Facts and Figures on Older Persons in Illinois

Federal and State Programs for the Aging

The Illinois Nursing Home Ombudsman Program

The Department on Aging Newsletter

Adult Day Care in Illinois